



March 8, 2000

Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte 582  
1925 K Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Sir or Madam:

The Chemical Industry Council of NJ (CIC/NJ) is submitting this letter in support of the comments provided on behalf of the chemical industry by Chemical Manufacturers Association. The CIC/NJ represents 105 companies in the chemical processing industry of NJ. The majority of which rely on rail transportation for shipment of their raw material and finished products.

Obviously, competition is the key to market success. Therefore, the Surface Transportation Board must apply consistent rules in reviewing all future rail mergers, in order to successfully protect the public interest. Additionally, the Board must substantially broaden the pro-competitive relief applied in such mergers, and assure that post-merger regulatory decisions ensure real competitive alternatives for all rail shippers.

The CIC/NJ sincerely appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, I hope you would not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Hal Bozarth  
Executive Director

Chemical Industry Council of New Jersey  
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